who intend to stay in India for more than a year. Diplomats/Priests/Nuns and accredited Journalists are exempted from this requirement.

Health Expenditure Coverage Scheme for TB Patients

4744. SHRI HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Health Expenditure Coverage Scheme for all citizens who get afflicted with TB;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian drugs or medicines available in the market have become ineffective against TB; and

(c) what schemes Government propose to start to ensure that all Indians suffering from TB get proper medical attention in time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such report has been received.

(c) Under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, the objective is to ensure at least 85% cure rate among patients put on treatment through improvement in quality of sputum microscopy, correct categorisatioin of T.B. cases, regular and supervised delivery of effective anti-T.B. drugs, regular follow-up and case holding.

Legislation to ban Smoking in Public Places

4745. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been able to bring forward a legislation to ban smoking in public places in the country;

(b) if so, what are the constraints coming in the way of the legislation; and

(c) how Government propose to remove them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have already decided to bring comprehensive Legislature to ban smoking in public places.

Manufacture of Oral Drug for Thalassemia by Cipla

4746. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an oral drug for Thalassemia has been lately developed by CIPLA;

(b) if so, the salient features and advantages over the existing treatments; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken for its commercial manufacture and bringing it within the reach of common man?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The oral drug Kelfer (deferiprone) unlike the old injectible drug Desferal, is claimed to be cost effective, does not require the use of electronic pump, is not painful and does not cause local allergic reaction.

(c) Drugs controller (India) has approved marketing of the drug Kelfer, under close supervision of haematologists. Kelfer capsules will at present only be supplies by CIPLA sales offices to Hospitals, institutions, selected centres against prescription given by haematologists. Since it is being produced indigenously no difficulty in respect of its availability is anticipated.